

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 897

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Emeritus Pat Head Summitt upon being named a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great State and their elected representatives are extremely proud to honor one of Tennessee's most accomplished and renowned citizens and one of the most inspiring individuals involved in collegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS, the greatest athletic coach of all-time, University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Emeritus Pat Head Summitt, was recently named a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, established by President Harry S. Truman in 1945, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is our nation's highest civil honor and is bestowed upon those individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors; and

WHEREAS, during her thirty-eight illustrious seasons at the helm of the Lady Vols basketball program, Coach Summitt earned the distinct honor of becoming the all-time winningest NCAA coach, and her extraordinary approach resulted in both unparalleled success on the court and unrivaled loyalty from those who know her and those whose lives she has touched; and

WHEREAS, this world-renowned coach has taken Tennessee to more Final Four appearances than any other coach in the history of the sport and has the second best record in NCAA basketball championships; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to her outstanding coaching ability, Pat Summitt has received a plethora of honors and accolades, including being named Naismith Women's Collegiate Coach of the Century; and

WHEREAS, willing to speak openly and courageously about her battle with Alzheimer's, Pat Summitt has inspired the entire nation with her work with the Pat Summitt Foundation, which donates generous grants to non-profit organizations to provide education and awareness, support to patients and families, and groundbreaking research to prevent, cure, and ultimately eradicate early onset dementia; and

WHEREAS, throughout her phenomenal career, Ms. Summitt has etched her name onto the hearts of Americans and into the annals of sports history; and

WHEREAS, Pat Summitt stands alone as the preeminent basketball coach in the history of the game, and this most recent accomplishment only serves to cement her prominent position in the pantheon of collegiate coaches; and

WHEREAS, it is especially appropriate for this body to honor such a truly inspiring Tennessean and exemplary American; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Head Coach Emeritus Pat Head Summitt upon being named a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, applaud her vaunted level of success and her dedication to excellence both on and off the court, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success, both personally and professionally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.